386

UNITED
NATIONS

TD

# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/C.6/152
5 September 1990

Original: ENGLISH

STATE DEPT

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Transfer of Technology
Eighth session
Geneva, 21 January 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

## Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda and suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

### I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Transfer and development of technology in a changing world environment: the challenges of the 1990s

4. Trade and development opportunities and implications of new and emerging technologies: the case of biotechnology

5. Review of the work programme of the Committee

6. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee

7. Other business

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee to the Trade and Development Board

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1: Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board states that "At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. In electing the officers, due account shall be taken of the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution". 1/

In accordance with rule 19 and the cycle for the rotation of groups, 2/ the Chairman of the Committee at its eighth session, which is the first of a seven-session cycle, is to be elected from among the representatives of members of Group C and the Rapporteur from among the representatives of members of Group B. One Vice-Chairman is to be elected from each of the following groups: A (Africa), A (Asia), B, C and D.

### Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee was approved at the consultations held pursuant to Trade and Development Board decision 143 (XVI), as decided by the Committee at its 79th plenary meeting on 31 January 1989. Section III of this note contains suggestions by the secretariat concerning the organization of work of the session.

### Item 3: Transfer and development of technology in a changing world environment: the challenges of the 1990s

To assist the Committee in considering this agenda item, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Transfer and development of technology in a changing world environment: the challenges of the 1990s" (TD/B/C.6/153). This report responds to the concerns and requests expressed by the Committee at its seventh session and, in particular, to paragraphs 2 (i), (iii) and (iv) of resolution 32 (VII). The report (a) reviews the factors affecting the transfer of technology, especially to developing countries, in the latter part of the 1980s and its trade repercussions; (b) examines the nature of the transfer and development of technology in the contemporary global economic setting characterized by structural adjustment and rapid technological change, and (c) considers what technology-related policy approaches may be appropriate in order to cope with these changes and promote the transfer of technology over the next decade.

### Item 4: Trade and development opportunities and implications of new and emerging technologies: the case of biotechnology

For the consideration of this item the secretariat prepared a report entitled "Trade and development opportunities and implications of new and emerging technologies: the case of biotechnology" (TD/B/C.6/154). This report responds to resolution 32 (VII) of the Committee, which recommended that the secretariat continue to give increased and systematic attention to the trade and development opportunities of new and emerging technologies, such as microelectronics, new materials and biotechnology. It will bring together the findings of a joint UNCTAD/UNIDO technical study on the subject,

identify products, product groups and individual developing countries that are likely to be affected by the generation and diffusion of biotechnological innovations, and explain the implications for national and international policies.

Item 5: Review of the work programme of the Committee

The attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the In-Depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields (TD/B/1154), endorsed by the Board in its resolution 352 (XXXIV) of 20 November 1987. Under these paragraphs, the Committee is required, at each regular session, without prejudice to its mandate, to (a) review the elaboration of its work programme and the implementation of its decisions; (b) consider and decide on the work ahead, including tasks to be introduced or prolonged in the work programme, and (c) ensure that any specific tasks be clearly defined, with a timetable for their accomplishment.

With a view to assisting the Committee in carrying out its review, the secretariat prepared a report on the work programme of the Committee (TD/B/C.6/155) and pursuant to Committee resolution 32 (VII), in particular paragraph 12, an addendum containing a description of the work of the Advisory Service on Transfer of Technology.

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee

In view of the fact that the eighth session of the Conference will be held before the ninth session of the Committee, the Committee may wish to consider authorizing the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to prepare a draft provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Committee, taking into account the outcome of the Conference, it being understood that the draft would be subject to consultations with representatives of regional groups and China within the framework of the consultative machinery established by Trade and Development decision 143 (XVI).

Item 8: Adoption of the report of the Committee to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Committee will be considered by the Board at the second part of its thirty-seventh session, scheduled to be held on 11-22 March 1991.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to paragraph 31 of the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group referred to above in which it is stated that reports of meetings should be kept within the limit of 32 pages. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to invite the Rapporteur and the secretariat to make every effort possible to conform to the directives of the Board on this matter.

## III. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

In accordance with paragraph 15 of the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group referred to above, the Committee will have seven working days, from 21 to 29 January 1991. However, Monday, 28 January, and Tuesday, 29 January, would need to be set aside for the preparation of the draft report and its adoption.

Throughout the session, interpretation facilities will be available for up to two simultaneous meetings in the mornings and afternoons. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group, no facilities will be available after 6 p.m., except on the last day of the session, when facilities could be made available until 9 p.m. During the session, limited facilities will be available for regional group meetings. In accordance with paragraph 20 of the above-mentioned report, in the week preceding the Committee session informal pre-session consultations will be held between representatives of interested member States and regional co-ordinators on organizational matters and, when appropriate, on substantive issues; this period could also be used by groups for internal substantive preparations. Facilities will be provided for these consultations and meetings on an "as available" basis.

It is suggested that the first meeting, on 21 January 1991, should be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2) and to opening statements by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative, and that the last meeting, on 29 January 1991, should be devoted to items 6, 7 and 8. The remaining meetings of the Committee, i.e. from the afternoon of 21 January to 25 January 1991, would be devoted to the substantive items of the agenda, namely, items 3, 4 and 5.

Notes

1/ TD/B/740.

2/ Ibid., annex 1.

---